

ATTY. DOCKET: 01-592-US
Serial No.: 10/036,107

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this case. Claims 40, 43-53, 56-66, 69-74, 77-83, 86-96, 98-101, 103-108, 110-113, and 115-118 are pending in this case. Herein, Claims 40, 53, 66, 74, 83, 95, and 107 are amended. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the present rejection in view of the amendments and the remarks presented herein. This response addresses those issues raised in the Office Action mailed on July 23, 2004.

The Examiner newly rejects Claims 40, 43-53, 56-66, 69-74, 77-83, 86-96, 98-101, 103-108, 110-113, and 115-118 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contends that there is no description in the specification of the claimed subject matter pertaining to "wherein the dramatic goals are based on classic rules of cinematic storytelling." Specifically, the Examiner states that "classic rules of cinematic storytelling" is not properly described. Applicants strongly disagree with this characterization by the Examiner. However, in order to promote timely issuance of the present case, Applicants have amended the independent claims of the present invention (i.e., Claims 40, 53, 66, 74, 83, 95, and 107) to replace the phrase "classic rules of cinematic storytelling" with "dramatic storytelling."

Applicants respectfully submit that support for "dramatic storytelling" may be found throughout the specification. The Examiner's attention is particularly drawn to paragraph 60 located on page 20 of the present specification, where it states,

Scenarios and elements thereof may also be developed by artists and other creative people with skill in dramatic writing and storytelling, such as screenplay writers and movie makers.
(Emphasis added.)

In addition, paragraph 16 on page 5 reads,

The simulations [of the present invention] are extremely compelling and memorable because they employ dramatic, people-centered stories and real-time instructional feedback

managed by artificial intelligence software tools. (Emphasis added.)

Further, the Examiner is asked to consider paragraph 18 on pages 5-6 where it states,

An instructor monitoring the instructor interface may intervene in the simulation to adjust the direction of the simulation to maximize the dramatic and educational effectiveness of the simulation. (Emphasis added.)

Paragraph 39 on page 12 of the present application expresses this concept similarly when it states,

Thus, the instructor may adjust the direction of the simulation to maximize the dramatic and educational effectiveness of the simulation and to interject new elements and information when necessary. (Emphasis added.)

Paragraph 43 on page 14 further supports the element of "dramatic storytelling,"

The authoring tools 80 enable non-programmers to create new scenarios that take into consideration pedagogical goals and the principles of good drama and storytelling. (Emphasis added.)

Clearly, support for "dramatic storytelling" is to be found throughout the present specification. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection under § 112, ¶1 is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants note that the present application is not presently rejected by the Examiner using any prior art references. The present amendments obviate the pending rejection under § 112, ¶1. No outstanding issues remain as obstacles for allowance of the present application. Notification of the allowability of the present claims is respectfully requested.

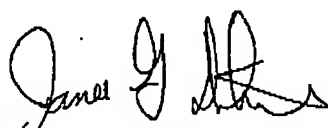
Finally, Applicants acknowledge receipt and consideration of the references that had been hand delivered to the Examiner's technology center on March 17, 2004.

ATTY. DOCKET: 01-592-US
Serial No.: 10/036,107

If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 21, 2004

By 
James G. Dilmore
Reg. No. 51,618
REED SMITH LLP
P.O. Box 488
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0488
(412) 288-3813

Agent for Applicants